

Claim Amendments

1. (previously canceled without prejudice)

2. (previously canceled without prejudice)

3. (previously canceled without prejudice)

4. (presently amended) A method of creating an online library on a first server computer coupled to the Internet, the method comprising the steps of:

allocating a first storage area coupled to the first server computer, the storage area being configured to hold one or more information objects for each of a plurality of users, said one or more information objects ~~being~~ including a web page, a link to a web page, a bookmark, a document, an e-book, an image, a piece of music, a piece of audio, a video clip, or a movie;

transmitting an information object for storage in the first storage area;

storing the information object in the online library; and

permitting access of the information object by a requester operating a second computer ~~via an Internet browser program based on a secure access authorization key, without the need to install special software on the second computer.~~

5. (presently amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

authenticating the requester based on (a) a description of information accessible using ~~the~~ an authorization key, (b) an expiration time for ~~the~~ an authorization key, (c) the trustworthiness of the requester, (d) the requester's a password, (e) the Internet address of a device used by the requester, or (f) the time of day ~~or~~ day of week of the requester's request.

6. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

permitting restrictive access to the information object by the requester based on whether the requester is authorized to view, modify, edit, add to, or delete a particular portion of the information object to which access is provided.

7. (presently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the transmitting step comprises the step of:

~~dragging and dropping the item of interest into the first storage area~~
transmitting the information object to the first storage area by using any one or a combination of the methods of (1) E-mail, (2) remote copy program (rcp), (3) hyper text transfer protocol (HTTP), (4) file transfer protocol (ftp), (5) Unix-to-Unix-Copy program (UUCP), (6) cutting-and-pasting, (7) copying-and-pasting, and (8) dragging-and-dropping.

8. (presently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the transmitting step comprises the step of:

directing a third party to transmit a digital item to the ~~user's~~ online library.

9. (presently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the directing step comprises the step of:

authorizing the third party to access the online ~~user's personal~~ library.

10. (presently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 9 wherein the ~~authorizing~~ transmitting step comprises the step of:

~~providing the third party the user's password~~
transmitting the information object upon (a) selecting an area on a web browser;
(b) clicking on an area in a web page; or (c) uploading.

11. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

automatically increasing the amount of in the first storage area if an information object requires more storage space than was allocated.

12. (presently amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:
scanning the information object for viruses; and

if the information object contained a virus, then (a) discarding the information object or (b) removing the virus from the information object prior to storing the object in the library.

13. (canceled) ~~The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:
if the information object contained a virus, then discarding the information object.~~

14. (canceled) ~~The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:
if the information object contained a virus, then recording the identity of the source of the information object that contained a virus.~~

15. (presently amended) A method of securely distributing a first party's personal information, the method comprising:

storing the first party's personal information on a ~~first~~ server computer connected to the Internet, said first party's personal information comprising at least one of a plurality of information objects, said at least one of a plurality of information objects ~~being~~ including a web page, a link to a web page, a bookmark, a document, an e-book, an image, a piece of music, a piece of audio, a video clip, or a movie;

associating with each information object at least one of a plurality of security clearance levels, said security clearance level being assignable to each information object at any granularity, thereby enabling access to selected portions of the stored first party's personal information;

receiving from a requester ~~via an Internet browser program~~ executing on a second computer, a request to access the first party's personal information, said request accompanying an authorization key to access the first party's personal information;

selecting a first portion of the first party's personal information authorized to be transmitted to the requester, said selection being made in accordance with one or more selection criteria established by the first party;

determining the second computer's formatting requirements via a handshaking protocol;

formatting a response according to a format acceptable to the second computer;
and

transmitting the formatted response ~~to a device designated by the requester,~~
~~without installing any special software on the second computer.~~

16. (original) The method as in claim 15, wherein the step of formatting a response comprises the step of:

configuring the response message in a manner suitable for delivery to the requester's device.

17. (original) The method as in claim 15, wherein the step of formatting a response comprises the step of:

selecting a suitable format from a selection of available formats.

18. (original) The method as in claim 15, wherein the step of formatting a response comprises the step of:

using stored rules to format a response message.

19. (original) The method as in claim 15, wherein the step of formatting a

response comprises the step of:

selecting a specified data communication protocol for transmission.

20. (original) The method as in claim 15, wherein the step of formatting a response comprises the step of:

encrypting or translating the response.

21. (withdrawn)

22. (withdrawn)

23. (withdrawn)

24. (New) A method of providing online library services to a plurality of users by a service provider operating a server computer connected to the Internet, said server computer configured to hold digital items for each of the plurality of users, said each of the plurality of users having an account with optional password-protection on said account with the server computer, the method comprising the steps of:

allocating storage to store a first user's information as the user's online library;

assigning an address for the first user's online library;

receiving the first user's account information;

optionally, receiving authorization information for the first user's account;

receiving a digital item;

storing the digital item in the first user's online library;

if the digital item is copyright-protected, then

receiving license information for the digital item;

storing the license information along with the copyright-protected digital item in the first user's online library;

examining the license information for the copyright-protected digital item to determine a number (N , where $N \geq 1$) of simultaneous users who could access the copyright-protected digital item; and

allowing no more than N simultaneous users to access the copyright-protected digital item.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the digital item is a web page, a bookmark, a document, an e-book, an image, a piece of music, a piece of audio, a video clip, a Compact Disc, or a movie.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of receiving license information comprises the step of:

receiving license information, said license information indicating that the license is for access of the digital item for a predetermined time (ζ);

permitting access the digital item in accordance with the time constraint imposed by the license information; and

disabling access to the digital item upon expiration of the predetermined time (ζ).

27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of allowing no more than N simultaneous users to access the copyright-protected digital item comprises the step of:

receiving a requester from n requesters to access a copyright-protected digital item having N (where $N \geq 1$) licenses;

allowing each of the $n \leq N$ requesters to access the digital item for a predetermined period of time (τ);

locking the digital item from access by the remaining ($n > N$) requesters during the time (τ) the digital item is accessed by those users who are permitted to access the digital item; and

optionally, establishing a waiting list for each of the remaining ($n > N$) requesters.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of:

when one of the N licenses becomes available, permitting one of the requesters on the waiting list to access the digital item.